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APRIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS WANT TO BE BETTER INFORMED

New Brockton's police topic of discussion

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

What appeared to be according to the printed agenda, a routine housekeeping meeting of the New Brockton Town Council did not turn out that way.

In today evening's meeting, the police department became the main topic of an almost hour-long discussion.

The discussion began when Mayor Karl Holley suggested that police officer Harry Laird be sent to a firearms instructor's school.

The request was that the town pay the \$50 tuition and furnish Laird's automobile while he paid the remaining expenses.

Councilman Charles Cole asked the question as to whether or not the matter of Laird's status with the police department had been discussed from the last meeting (March 7).

Officer Laird had requested a leave from the department for 13 until the end of May. The minutes of March 7 meeting reflected that no official action was taken in regard to the matter.

Holley informed the council

that he had received a letter from the police department at the present time.

Councilman Cole and other members in the council feel that they should be involved in the approval process of all extended leaves granted to the town's employees.

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BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Montgomery Circuit Judge Gene Reese had state officials in court over his answers about their progress on the sweeping overhaul of the Alabama education system. In fact, he had ordered the plan be put in place by September 30. The new law will affect 17 areas of education and has indicated he will step in with his own remedies if the legislature fails to do so. It is gonna be interesting to see just who totes the biggest stick in this matter... the state legislature or a lone Alabama circuit judge in Montgomery County.

Vice President Al Gore was in Alabama last week and is promoting improvements in schools, hopefully to prevent the tragic deaths such as happened during the events of 12/21/93.

However we echo the question we heard on the Alabama educational TV network last week, "Where would these North Alabama people in the Goshen Methodist Church have gone if they had had this new warning system?" In fact to more pointed - if that warning was issued right here where the folks go? Normally we think our brick church buildings are safe. Yet the people in them are not. They are leaving their mobile homes and frame houses - where were killed by the heavy brick walls of the church. We ask again, "Where would they go?" We don't think more bells and whistles are the solution to this problem, yet we don't have a better suggestion.

During political season there is a certain group (or class) of people who consider it their duty to nominate various candidates. There has probably not been an election in years to 27 years ago that was against the law in Alabama to destroy such signs and there have been peace petitions in the past. Currently in Coffee County there is a small group making a game of destroying a particular candidate's signs. Of course such activities are really just bragging about it and that is usually their end goal. We can not let this activity take place. Add these sightings to alcohol suspended tongues and a couple of people could very well sit out the June 7th election in the Coffee County jail. If that happens, we will clap our hands and smile.

U.S. Senator Richard Shelby underwent prostate cancer surgery on Tuesday of this week. The doctors report the surgery went well, he is in excellent health and they expect a full recovery, and without any additional treatment. That is always good news for leaders or our neighbors.

The next best thing is the front refutes of our neighbors. So many times people in the public eye, and their close aides, fall into having a "bad cold" or something, thinking somehow the public shouldn't know and will never know. Such efforts only serve to discredit another else's public figure says or does. There should no more embarrassment or hide behind the scenes taking medicine for that bad cold. None of us like it, but both colds and cancer happen. We send our U.S. Senator our best wishes and sincerely pray that the doctors are correct and Shelby does "recover fully within weeks."

The Alabama Highway Department has let the contract and resurfacing should start soon on several state roads in and around Elba. They truly need the work, as many city streets. We isn't even going speculate about who is doing the work can be done on these city streets. There are some managerial or technical which can only be used on the streets. However the courts (or someone) have ruled that state department expenses and equipment expense are considered legal expenses for these funds. This cut easily into any chances of getting bumpy, crumbling city streets paved.

We like the planning which went into the additional one cent sales tax passed recently in Andalusia. They presented the public with a ten year plan, in writing, of what they planned to do with the additional money each year. The report even named which streets would be paved in which fiscal year. In Elba we have a plan also... of a sort. We are gonna give half to the schools and the rest... well, we gonna pay bills.

******* DEADLINES *******
SOCIAL NEWS - 5 P.M. MONDAY
ALL OTHER NEWS - NOON TUESDAY

**ALABAMA'S ROADS
HIGHWAYS OR DIEWAYS?**

The Choice Is Yours

Boswell Insurance
Announces The Association Of
Teresa Mauldin
With Their Company



"Let Teresa's Experience Work for YOU!"
See Teresa For ALL Your Car Insurance, Farm
Owner's Insurance, Mobile Home Insurance &
Home Owner's Insurance Needs TODAY!

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Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties \$13.00 Per Year
6 Months - \$6.50 - Including City & State Tax
Alabama Counties \$14.50 Per Year, Including Tax
6 Months - \$7.25 - Including Tax
Outside Alabama \$15.50 Per Year - 6 Months - \$8.00

ELBA POLICE REPORT

The Elba Police Department, investigating the following incidents four thefts, one lost property, five assaults, one harassing communication, one criminal mischief, one DUI, one burglary, and one vehicle accident:

The following arrests were made: two for assault.

Traffic citations issued during the month of March 27, 1994, for speeding one for no driver's license, one for driving while driver's license suspended, one for DUI, one for switched tag, and one for driving on the wrong side of the road.

Daily activity highlights were as follows:

TUESDAY, MARCH 29 - Routine activity.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 - Rescue run to a residence on the Old Samson Road (12:08 a.m.); Prowler reported on Sunset Blvd. (2:50 p.m.); Disturbance reported in Morrow Village (11:10 p.m.); Routine activity.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31 - Right reported in Morrow Village (5:12 p.m.); Disturbance in Morrow St. (9:28 p.m.); Routine activity.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 - Prowler run to Elba Villas (12:28 a.m.); Alarm at The Peoples Clinic (3:15 a.m.); Rescue run to Elba Villas (6:55 p.m.); Disturbance in Morrow Village (11:53 p.m.); Routine activity.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - Prowler reported on Creek St. (4:59 a.m.); Disturbance in Morrow Village (2:14 p.m.); Fire in Riverview (4:14 p.m.); Rescue run to a wreck just off AL Hwy. 141 (9:39 p.m.); Five units dispatched to wreck scene (10:13 p.m.).

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 - Disturbance in Little Beaver Creek Ct. (12:42 a.m.); Grass fire on AL Hwy. 125 (2:25 p.m.); Rescue run to a wreck just off AL Hwy. 141 (9:40 p.m.); Five units dispatched to wreck scene (10:13 p.m.).

MONDAY, APRIL 4 - Rescue run to a residence on the Packing House Road (11:01 a.m.); Right reported at Mullins Appts. (6:45 p.m.); Routine activity.

In April, October is forever away, so I said yes--no big deal here. The younger and more innocent than I am now, so I really agreed to go. I had known what lay ahead, I might have been more cautious.

Those of us who were a part of the original committee share of the CCAA which others could not possibly have.

After Jewel Smith's term as president ended, I was elected to attend a planning meeting for an Arts Alliance in Coffee County I

and the first Board of Directors.

I had a wonderful time with an idea. It was a wonderful night which took its roots in the good people of Coffee County. Those early years were a difficult learning experience for all of us. We were a group of young adults and the first Board of Directors.

One of the first accomplishments that we had was that we were able to rent a post office box, and pay the rent.

In the spring of 1980, after I had rotated off the CCAA Board, I got a phone call asking if Marion and I would be the new president and chairwoman of the Arts and Crafts Festival to make some money. I missed one board meeting that year, that meeting I was appointed chairman of the

arts and crafts festival.

Again, everything worked out and it was a memorable event.

It has been an enriching part of my life to be a part of the CCAA from the beginning. I am grateful to have had the experience.

In the 20 years since its beginning, the Arts Alliance has shown substantial growth both in its series and at Pine Woods Art Festival and Quilt Show. This year on April 16 and 17 on the campus of ESIC, the 2nd Annual Pine Woods Art Festival and Quilt Show will be held. About 70 to 75 artists and crafts persons are expected to exhibit and sell.

The Fun Center is a popular spot during the festival. Fire truck rides will be offered each day from 1:30-3:30 p.m., also Face Painting and Thumb Print Art will be offered along with fingerpainting done by Enterprise Police Department. A free lance artist will be located near the fun center to do sketches of children.

Entertainment will be provided by local bands as well as the Circle City Barber Shop Chorus from Dothan who will perform at 1:30 on Saturday. Also a special guest, John Ferguson, a troubadour and Riverboat singer. He will perform each day at 12:30. Admission to the festival is free. There will be plenty of food from vendors. Come out and join the fun!

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Jobs

by Jan Murray

Welfare reform. Everyone seems to want to know what is needed for a host of society-based problems that come under the welfare umbrella. I cast Alabama Skills Center, area technical schools, and colleges those who might not have had a chance before JOBS was implemented now have a chance to try to work at GED attending college, gaining actual working experience and even finding permanent employment.

The Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program (JOBS) is one of those. As the program's trained sole case manager for the program, Coffey County, I get to see the failures and the successes of the program, and the struggles that my 145-plus participants have to reach their goals. I also have the privilege of having insomnia from time to time while trying to figure out a way to help troubled clients. It is all worth it. The program is a great step toward leading welfare dependents to independence.

JOBS was established through the passage of the Family Support Act of 1988. The program targets specific welfare recipients (parents) under the age of 24, without a high school diploma or GED or with little or no work experience; others who have never worked for at least 30 out of the last 60 months; and those who are within two years of losing their benefits due to the youngest child nearing 18.

Festival On The Rivers Parade to be held April 29th

The Geneva Festival on the Rivers Parade will be on Friday, April 29, 1994. Line-up is at 4:00 p.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse. The parade will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m. An individual or group interested in being in the parade is encouraged to do so. For further information, please call Diane H. Coffey at 684-2880 or Wynona Melton at 684-9379.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come And Be Fed The Bread Of Life And Drink

*****HAPPY HOUR*****

EVERY SUNDAY 10:45 AM
EVERY THURSDAY 7:30 PM
APPETIZER EVERY SATURDAY
8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM ON WEBL 1350
THE NEW ABUNDANT LIFE DELIVERANCE CENTER

The Church of The Double Portion!
404 COLLIER STREET-BEHIND CITY HALL

years of age. Through the adult basic education program at Enterprise State Junior College, schools and community centers who might not have had a chance before JOBS was implemented now have a chance to try to work at GED attending college, gaining actual working experience and even finding permanent employment.

The results are not immediate through a program such as JOBS but are, however, long-term. A mentor can look up to us, talk to help build confidence, guide and care. The JOBS program in Coffee County will be two years old in June. At that time we have assessed more than 350 welfare clients. Over 200 of those cases are now closed because their clients found success in their lives that fits the description of a mentor. In short, they don't have the nourishing family or friend support network that most of us have and need to grow.

We not only need business, civic group, church or Sunday school sponsorship for the initial meeting for mentors and their matches as well as follow-up meetings, we hope to have them get-together sessions. Many of our participants have anyone in their lives to care about them and before JOBS had no idea where to turn.

We now have a program, New Brooklyn, and Enterprise. If you are interested and want more information about the mentor program or want to apply to be a mentor, please contact Mrs. Mary A. Hooks of Elba, AL and attend the Sunday School sponsorship for the initial meeting for mentors and their matches as well as follow-up meetings, we hope to have them get-together sessions. Many of our participants have anyone in their lives to care about them and before JOBS had no idea where to turn.

Can you imagine being all alone with one child or more, a limited education, no viable work skills, no car and living in a drug infested and infested environment? That's what so many of my JOBS participants face each day. Some don't have it bad but, if you have it worse, They need someone to help them build their self-confidence and those that surround them and to dream, dream big.

Let me end this column with a few words from one of our Elba participants, who, six months ago, had no idea where to turn. She said, "The JOBS program is a very rewarding and uplifting experience for me...I can honestly say that I do not believe I would have passed the GED test if not for JOBS." The JOBS course first, Now, having received my GED certificate, feelings of self-respect and accomplishment are overwhelming within me. I have fulfilled one dream in my life in which no one can ever take away from me, the sky is the limit." This client is now enrolled in nursing school.

Let's face from Rocky Head attending this occasion and Praise Services at St. Paul Baptist Church for the workshop Choir Concert in Greenville, AL, Rev. Charles Lane, Pastor, celebrated their annual Choir Concert on April 27, 1994. Rev. A. R. Williams, pastor of Rocky Head MB Church, Elba, AL, was guest minister and the Rocky Head MB Church Ensemble was headlined.

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